

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (New) A method, comprising:

employing a plurality of integrated access devices to multiplex a plurality of packetized signals from ones of a plurality of network terminals onto ones of a plurality of channels of a network switch component, wherein:

the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of channels of the network switch component; and

the plurality of integrated access devices are connected to the network switch component by a plurality of integrated access devices lines that is not less than the plurality of channels of the network switch component.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein:

each of a plurality of subscriber lines couples one of the plurality of network terminals and a corresponding one of the plurality of integrated access devices;

each of the plurality of integrated access device lines couples one of the plurality of channels of the network switch component and a corresponding one of the plurality of integrated access devices; and

employing the plurality of integrated access devices to multiplex the plurality of packetized signals includes multiplexing the plurality of packetized signals from ones of the plurality of subscriber lines onto ones of the plurality of integrated access device lines.

19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the network switch component is a segment and reassembly (SAR) device.

20. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the network switch component is a voice over digital subscriber line (VoDSL) device.

21. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the network switch component is an ATM adaptation layer type 2 (AAL2) device.

22. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein:
the network switch component is one of a plurality of network switch components;
the plurality of channels includes channels of each of the plurality of network switch components, collectively;
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of channels of all of the plurality of network switch components, collectively; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is not less than the plurality of channels of all of the plurality of network switch components, collectively.

23. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is greater than the plurality of channels of the network switch component.

24. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is equal to the plurality of channels of the network switch component.

25. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is equal to the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is greater than the plurality of channels of the network switch component.
26. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the packetized signals include voice over digital subscriber line signals.
27. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked.
28. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing a busy signal to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked.
29. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing a reorder tone to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked.
30. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein the information is broadcasted by at least the network switch component.
31. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein the information is not broadcasted by the network switch component.

32. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein:

the plurality of channels of the network switch component includes a plurality of revenue traffic channels and a plurality of reserved channels not otherwise employed for revenue traffic;

the information is broadcasted by the plurality of reserved channels; and

the plurality of integrated access device lines is not less than the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

33. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein:

the plurality of channels of the network switch component includes a plurality of revenue traffic channels and a plurality of reserved channels not otherwise employed for revenue traffic;

the information is broadcasted by the plurality of reserved channels and is not broadcasted by any of the plurality of integrated access devices; and

the plurality of integrated access device lines is not less than the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

34. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein any one of the plurality of packetized signals simultaneously includes voice data and non-voice data.

35. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of network terminals is oversubscribed relative to the plurality of integrated access device lines.

36. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of network terminals is oversubscribed relative to the plurality of channels of the network switch component.

37. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
means for multiplexing a plurality of packetized signals from ones of a plurality of network terminals onto ones of a plurality of channels of a network switch component, wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of channels of the network switch component;
the multiplexing means includes at least one of a plurality of integrated access devices; and
the plurality of integrated access devices are connected to the plurality of channels of the network switch component by a plurality of integrated access device lines that is not less than the plurality of channels.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the network switch component is a segment and reassembly (SAR) device.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the network switch component is an ATM adaptation layer type 2 (AAL2) device.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is greater than the plurality of channels of the network switch component.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is equal to the plurality of channels of the network switch component.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is equal to the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is greater than the plurality of channels of the network switch component.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising means for providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein the information is broadcasted by at least the network switch component.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the information includes a reorder tone.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the information includes a busy signal.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising means for providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein the information is not broadcasted by the network switch component.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising means for providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein:
the plurality of channels of the network switch component includes a plurality of revenue traffic channels and a plurality of reserved channels not otherwise employed for revenue traffic;
the information is broadcasted by the plurality of reserved channels; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is not less than the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising means for providing information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein:

the plurality of channels of the network switch component includes a plurality of revenue traffic channels and a plurality of reserved channels not otherwise employed for revenue traffic;

the information is broadcasted by the plurality of reserved channels and is not broadcasted by any of the plurality of integrated access devices; and

the plurality of integrated access device lines is not less than the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein any one of the plurality of packetized signals simultaneously includes voice data and non-voice data.

50. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
means for switching packetized signals multiplexed from ones of a plurality of network terminals onto ones of a plurality of revenue traffic channels, wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of revenue traffic channels;
the packetized signals are multiplexed from ones of the plurality of network terminals onto ones of a plurality of integrated access devices lines by ones of a plurality of integrated access devices;
the plurality of integrated access devices are connected to the plurality of revenue traffic channels by the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is not less than the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the switching means includes a segment and reassembly (SAR) device.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the switching means includes an ATM adaptation layer type 2 (AAL2) device.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is greater than the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is greater than the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is equal to the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein:
the plurality of network terminals is equal to the plurality of integrated access device lines; and
the plurality of integrated access device lines is greater than the plurality of revenue traffic channels.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 further comprising means for broadcasting information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the information includes a reorder tone.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the information includes a busy signal.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 further comprising means for broadcasting information to any of the plurality of network terminals for which network access is blocked, including information indicating that network access is blocked, wherein:

the switching means includes a plurality of reserved channels not otherwise employed for revenue traffic; and

the information is broadcasted by the plurality of reserved channels.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the packetized signals include signals simultaneously including voice data and non-voice data.